

What does the Bible say about... Dealing with the Extended Family



- When 2 people get married, 2 families are brought together
- And you are marrying the other family
- Each family does things differently, it isn't wrong just different
- But what happens is that each family thinks they do things the right way.
- The other family does it wrong, and they can judge each other



- But what happens when one or both of you hang onto the old family?
- What if one of you never leaves the old family?
- What if the old family controls the son or daughter?
- It is a huge problem that has happened over and over in families
- The Bible gives us some guidelines to follow as we deal with the extended family



I. Your Immediate Family has to be #2



Matthew 10:37

*Anyone who loves his father or mother
more than me is not worthy of me;
anyone who loves his son or daughter
more than me is not worthy of me;*

Genesis 2:24

*For this reason a man will leave his
father and mother and be united to his
wife and they will become one flesh*

- In all the relationships in life, your 1st priority is to God
- God is the most important person in your life
- You worship God. You serve and follow what God says in the Bible
- Some people would rather follow what their parents say
- And so when someone becomes a Christian, they put God 1st and love God 1st.



- Your next priority is to your spouse, then your children
- We have to get these relationships right and then we take care of our extended family.
- Your parents and siblings don't come before your family
- You may say, I can take care of all of these, I must take care of my parents.
- There are times when you can't take care of all of them and you have to choose.



- But there are some parents that want to give advise all the time
- There are some parents that can not let go of their child
- These parents may have good intentions, they don't want you to fail in life
- So they come to your rescue every time something happens
- Or they offer strong advice and command you to follow it
- And that is where the leaving comes in



- Parent, if you have married children, have you let go?
- Stop trying to control your child
- Let them fail in life so they can learn
- Stop giving advice, but rather encourage them
- Look for the good, rather than the bad



II. Honor Your Parents

Exodus 20:12

Honor your father and mother so that you may live long in the land the Lord is giving to you



- When we become adults, our parents are still our parents
- There are many ways that you can honor your parents
- This is cultural. In Asian culture, you take care of your parents in their old age. In fact, it is expected of you
- And many parents move in with their children and take care of the grandchildren. That can be a good thing if everyone gets along



So are there other ways to honor our parents?

1. You can listen to them, call them on the phone
2. You can talk about the good times that you had
3. You can spend time with them
4. Show respect at all times



III. Providing for Relatives

I Timothy 5:8

If anyone does not provide for his relatives and especially for his immediate family he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever



- As we talked about, the 1st priority is to your immediate family
- And how you provide for your parents is the next priority
- Some parents live independently for a long time and are financially set. Other parents may need help
- How you help is a life changing decision
- But what if you have some relatives that constantly need your money?



IV. Money Strings

Proverbs 22:7

“The rich rule over the poor, and the borrower is slave to the lender.”



- This one is difficult to see sometimes
- Maybe your parents paid for your school
- Maybe they bought you a car
- Maybe they gave you a really nice gift
- Are there any money strings?
- There are always money strings



- Because they gave you the gift, you have an obligation to your parents. You need to count the cost very carefully
- What will I have to give in return for what I have received?



- Dealing with your extended family can be a great joy
- And it can cause a lot of heartache
- With some relatives, you will have to set boundaries
- Put God 1st
- Do what is right for your family
- Honor your parents and you can't go wrong



He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me

जो माता या पिता को मुझ से अधिक प्रिय जानता है, वह मेरे योग्य नहीं; और जो बेटा या बेटी को मुझ से अधिक प्रिय जानता है, वह मेरे योग्य नहीं

El que quiere a su padre o a su madre más que a mí no es digno de mí; el que quiere a su hijo o a su hija más que a mí no es digno de mí;

Apendaye baba au mama kuliko mimi, hanistahili; wala apendaye mwana au binti kuliko mimi, hanistahili.

爱父母过于爱我的,不配作我的门徒; 爱儿女过于爱我的,不配作我的门徒

아비나 어미를 나보다 더 사랑하는 자는 내게 합당치 아니하고
아들이나 딸을 나보다 더 사랑하는 자도 내게 합당치 아니하고

Кім әке-шешесін не ұл-қызын Менен артық көрсе, сол Менікі болуға лайықты емес.

What does the Bible say about.....Dealing with the Extended Family

When 2 people get married, 2 families are brought together
And you are marrying the other family
Each family does things differently, it isn't wrong just different
But what happens is that each family thinks they do things the right way
The other family does it wrong, and they can judge each other
The new married couple is making a new family
There is a mix of things that both families did and there are some new traditions
My Dad always wanted meat and potatoes, we rarely ate rice
For some reason I really liked rice and begged my Mom to make rice
No, we are having potatoes. When I got married, we had a new tradition
Lots of rice
But what happens when one or both of you hang onto the old family?
What if one of you never leaves the old family?
What if the old family controls the son or daughter?
It is a huge problem that has happened over and over in families
The Bible gives us some guidelines to follow as we deal with
the extended family

I. Your Immediate Family has to be #2

Matthew 10:37 *Anyone who loves his father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves his son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me;*
Genesis 2:24 *For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife and they will become one flesh*
In all the relationships in life, your 1st priority is to God
God is the most important person in your life
You worship God. You serve and follow what God says in the Bible
Some people would rather follow what their parents say
And so when someone becomes a Christian, they put God 1st and love God 1st. Parents may not like that and tell you to give up God
But that is not what we do, it is God 1st
That doesn't mean we forget about our parents or forsake them
No, the Bible actually tells us to honor our parents
Your next priority is to your spouse, then your children

We have to get these relationships right and then we take care of our extended family.
Your parents and siblings don't come before your family
You may say, I can take care of all of these, I must take care of my parents
There are times when you can't take care of all of them and you have to choose
When you get married, you are forming a new separate family
And many parents honor your new family and don't interfere
But there are some parents that want to give advise all the time
There are some parents that can not let go of their child
These parents may have good intentions, they don't want you to fail in life
So they come to your rescue every time something happens
Or they offer strong advice and command you to follow it
And that is where the leaving comes in
If your parents live close or they live in your house
Or worse yet, you live in their house
Advise will come to you and you can be treated like a big child
It is not healthy for your new marriage
Parent, if you have married children, have you let go?
Stop trying to control your child
Let them fail in life so they can learn
Stop giving advice, but rather encourage them
Look for the good, rather than the bad
If you are that son or daughter that hasn't left the parents
There will come a time when you will have to have a talk with your parents
Lori and I were married for about 2 years and my parents came to visit. I am the oldest son so my parents were having a difficult time letting go. There was an argument about how Lori was doing something and I don't even remember what it was about, but I had to confront my parents. I was forming a new family and I think it started there
It doesn't matter how old you are, you could be in your 50s and the parent still tries to control and be a part of your family
Let go, on both sides, it's a lot easier.

II. Honor Your Parents

Exodus 20:12 *Honor your father and mother so that you may live long in the land the Lord is giving to you*

When we become adults, our parents are still our parents

There are many ways that you can honor your parents

This is cultural. In Asian culture, you take care of your parents in their old age. In fact, it is expected of you

And many parents move in with their children and take care of the grandchildren. That can be a good thing if everyone gets along

If parents do not control the son or daughter

But we know that is what happens many times

In America, many times, the parents are put in a nursing home and that isn't good either

These are life changing decisions to make for and with parents

You will have to decide and then live with that decision

So are there other ways to honor our parents?

1. You can listen to them, call them on the phone

You may hear the same story over and over

But is a way to honor your parents

2. You can talk about the good times that you had

Not everything was perfect with your childhood, everyone had problems

But focus on the good times that you had as a family

3. You can spend time with them

This may involve travel but it shows that you love them

4. Show respect at all times

There may come a time when this is difficult

Maybe they are slipping away mentally and are difficult to deal with

That is a time to be patient and love them

Remember, they took care of you for 20 years, you can take care of them

III. Providing for Relatives

I Timothy 5:8 *If anyone does not provide for his relatives and especially for his immediate family he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever*

As we talked about, the 1st priority is to your immediate family

And how you provide for your parents is the next priority

Some parents live independently for a long time and are financially set

Other parents may need help

How you help is a life changing decision

But what if you have some relatives that constantly need your money?

It is not good to take money that could be used for your family and give it to someone else knowing that you will never get it back

In that case, a decision needs to be made

Is there really a need or are they not using the money wisely?

IV. Money Strings

Proverbs 22:7 “The rich rule over the poor, and **the borrower is slave to the lender.**”

This one is difficult to see sometimes

Maybe your parents paid for your school

Maybe they bought you a car

Maybe they gave you a really nice gift

Are there any money strings? There are always money strings

You know, kind of like a puppet on strings

They may say there are no strings, but you know there are strings

Because they gave you the gift, you have an obligation to your parents

You need to count the cost very carefully

What will I have to give in return for what I have received?

Maybe you will have to take care of your parents in their old age

Maybe that has been expected of you all along

But what will the extra gift cost me? Consider carefully

Dealing with your extended family can be a great joy

And it can cause a lot of heartache

With some relatives, you will have to set boundaries

No, I'm sorry, I can't loan you this money

They may try to make you feel guilty

But you can't listen to that guilt

Put God 1st

Do what is right for your family

Honor your parents and you can't go wrong